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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR DS AND SA

SENSITIVE

E.O/ 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [CE](#) [LTTE](#)

SUBJECT: Suspected LTTE suicide bomber surrenders at U.S. Embassy

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: On November 7, 2005 an individual claiming to be an LTTE suicide bomber came to AmEmbassy Colombo and requested asylum. After an interview to determine that there was no threat or information involving U.S. facilities or personnel he was given into the custody of the police. The EAC has concluded that no change to Embassy security posture is necessary. End Summary.

2. (SBU) On Monday November 7, 2005 RSO was advised that an individual claiming to be an LTTE suicide cadre (Black Tiger) was at the front gate requesting to speak to an American.

3. (SBU) RSO conducted the interview through an LES Embassy employee fluent in Tamil. The Subject identified himself as JEEVARATNAM ; DOB: AUGUST 25th 1983 KATTANKUDDY, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka; National Identity Card Number: 832383171V. Subject stated that he wanted to leave the LTTE and requested assistance going to the United States. Subject was accompanied by H.H.R. Chandana, National Identity Card No. 673500927 who is employed by the Sun Asian Travel Company.

4. (SBU) Subject advised that he was an LTTE suicide cadre who been assigned to kill either Karuna Amman (breakaway LTTE Eastern Commander) or Douglas Devananda (leader of anti-LTTE Belam People's Democratic Party, EPDP). Subject advised that he had voluntarily joined the LTTE when he was fifteen after hearing recruitment speeches in his school in the Batticaloa district of Sri Lanka. He stated that in 2003 he was accepted into the Black Tigers as a suicide cadre. After his acceptance he underwent training in the northern part of Sri Lanka. The training included a course which he identified as ?brainwashing? which took the form of a two hour class once a week over a six month period.

5. (SBU) Subject stated that because he is a Batticaloa (Eastern) Tamil he was sent to Batticaloa to find ways to get closer to Karuna Amman and assassinate him. He was also assigned to travel between Vavuniya in north central Sri Lanka and Batticaloa to engage in reconnaissance and also to identify some contacts of Karuna or Douglas Devananda.

6. (SBU) Subject states that the reason he wanted to leave the LTTE was related to his family. He asked permission from the LTTE to go home and see his family but they refused to grant him leave on several occasions, with the explanation he was working for an important unit. At that point he decided that he wanted to leave the LTTE.

7. (SBU) According to Subject, he was recently assigned to do a reconnaissance of H.H.R Chandana (who accompanied him to the embassy) and kill him. Subject advised that the LTTE suspected that Chandana, a Sinhalese living in Batticaloa married to a Tamil, is a government spy. Subject alleges that when he discovered that Chandana's wife is a close relative of his and that Chandana is not an informant for the government forces he returned without killing him. He later sought Chandana's assistance in escaping the LTTE. Subject then decided to approach the U.S. Embassy and request asylum.

8. (SBU) Subject reiterated several times that he was unaware of any threat to U.S. Government or facilities. At the conclusion of this interview, subject and companion were released into the custody of the Sri Lankan Police.

9. (SBU) Shortly after subject was taken into custody an LTTE suicide vest was found in vicinity of the Prime Minister's residence which is 100 meters from the Embassy. Multiple security force contacts have told us that the recovered LTTE suicide vest does not appear to be related to the Embassy walk-in although they continue to investigate. Security forces also noted that their initial question indicates that he is a LTTE Black Tiger. Multiple government sources also maintain that the walk-in was in fact trying to seek US assistance and was not at the U.S. Embassy as part of an effort to carry out an operation against the Embassy.

10. (SBU) The Emergency action committee met on November 9 and determined that, based on current information, no change in Mission security posture is necessary. However, we have briefed our counter-surveillance teams and guards in order to increase awareness.

11. (SBU) On the afternoon of 9 November RSO met with the Director of Sri Lanka's Internal Intelligence service. The Director

advised that his officers are assisting the police in this investigation. He re-iterated that there is no threat to the American Embassy or its personnel. There has been brief mention of the walk-in in the local press. In response to press inquiries, we have limited our comments to confirmation that a walk-in was handed over to the police.

LUNSTEAD